

THREE MILLIONAIRES SUES

Mrs. Frank Roberts Wants Him to Provide for Her Child.

He Says She Is a Blackmailer and Has Bled Him for Thirteen Years.

No Longer Dreads Exposure, and His Lawyer Talks of Having Two Persons Indicted.

ONE MRS. ROBERTS HAS BEEN FOUND.

She Lives in Mount Vernon, Knows All About the Case, But Says She Is Not the Plaintiff.

A woman calling herself Mrs. Frank Roberts obtained from Judge Osborne, of the Supreme Court, last Thursday, an order appointing her the guardian of her thirteen-year-old son, Marvin, pending an action to be brought against Millionaire Marvin Cross, of Brooklyn, who, she claims, is the boy's father.

Marvin Cross has for nearly half a century been a prominent figure in Brooklyn commercial and political circles. He is seventy-three years old, is in the lumber trade and very wealthy. He lives in a handsome mansion at No. 499 Bedford avenue. He was a Park Commissioner under Mayor Chapin, and President Cleveland was entertained by him when in Brooklyn to review a Memorial Day parade. Mr. Cross is a tall, slim man, with snow white hair and whiskers. His manners are gentle and retiring, and his habit of shrinking from notoriety has subjected him to persistent blackmailing for years he says. Mr. Cross tells his story as follows:

THE MILLIONAIRE'S STORY.

"I met this woman fourteen years ago, and since then she has bullied me out of many thousands of dollars. She came to me originally as a book agent, calling herself Mrs. Stuart, and I admit that I visited her once at her house. That is the only intimacy there has ever been between us. I tried to terminate the acquaintance, but she began to write me threatening letters, and I paid her a large sum on promise of silence. Month after month and year after year she renewed her demands, and I paid again and again to save exposure."

"Four years ago I entered into an agreement with her, and paid a very big sum which was to be final. This she spent in theatrical speculations, and again she persecuted me. Against the advice of my lawyer I kept on paying until two months ago, when I told her I would positively pay no more. I am now determined to fight the claim. For fourteen years I have never been alone with the woman, who, I understand, is now the wife of Roberts, a theatrical manager."

The application for guardianship was made on behalf of "Mrs. Frank Roberts," General Horatio C. King, of No. 375 Fulton street, Brooklyn, and this agent was charged with the case against Mr. Cross. He said yesterday that Mrs. Roberts had been residing at No. 11 South Oxford street, but that he found with her husband at Mount Vernon.

At No. 11 South Oxford street, Brooklyn, was said yesterday that Mr. and Mrs. Roberts, with the boy Marvin, had boarded here for a year, until Monday last, when they moved away. It was presumed to Mount Vernon, where the husband was said to be in the theatrical business. Former District Attorney James W. Ridgway is counsel for Mr. Cross. When seen at his office in the Gardiner Building yesterday he said:

"I have notified General King that Mr. Cross will not pay one more cent to Mrs. Roberts. If he had followed my advice he would not have paid large sums as he has for many years. An unflinching system of blackmail has been played on him. While his wife was alive he submitted to this for four or five years. Now that she is dead, year ago and now he is through with the blackmailers. I feel sure that General Horatio C. King has been imposed upon in this matter, and when he is fully aware of this woman's methods he will throw up the case, as many lawyers have done before."

INDICTMENTS ARE THREATENED.

"Whenever the papers are served I will that same day file an answer and application for an early trial. Then the whole blackmailing case will be fully exposed and indictments will follow. I do not intend to let the matter drag along. She has repeatedly sunk the money she extracted in theatrical ventures, and her supporters, I understand, are now the lessee of the Mount Vernon (N. Y.) Theatre."

Mr. Patrick J. Ryan, of 104 West First street, was the lessee of the Mount Vernon Opera House for three years until last May. He said yesterday:

"I remember George Roberts as an advance agent for Washington's 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' company, which visited my theatre about two years ago. He offered me \$150 a month for the place, which I knew was a lot more than it was worth. He said he had a partner, a wealthy lumber merchant of Brooklyn."

At Bernard's Hotel, in New Rochelle, Mr. George Roberts and wife were recently registered, and upon the vacant stage of the opera house these persons were found sitting in close conversation at 7 o'clock last night. Mrs. Roberts is a graceful brunette, about thirty-three years of age, with trim features and a pleasing face. The description given by Mr. Ridgway fitted her exactly. At first her husband seemed anxious she should not be approached. When asked about the story he said:

"We are not the parties. We know all about it and are mixed up in it; but it is not my wife who is bringing action. It is all a mistake."

The man then attempted to explain that, whereas the woman in the suit was Mrs. Frank Roberts, his wife was Mrs. George Roberts. He did not see that his wife would not sign legal papers as "George Roberts" when her Christian name might be "Frank."

When Mrs. Roberts came forward she said her husband was a wealthy lumber merchant, and intimated that he might be concerned, but George promptly told her that gentleman had been dead two years. She then tried to enlist sympathy for the poor woman and her little boy, and George, becoming enthusiastic, said:

"Yes, we shall fight the thing to the last. He then admitted that he and his wife had lived at No. 11 South Oxford street, Brooklyn, until a few days ago, and immediately contradicted his former statement by saying that the first he had heard of the matter was when he read the papers an hour or two before."

Mrs. Roberts again flatly denied being the woman in question, but when asked if she would not be in court when the trial case opened, she said she certainly would, adding significantly, "If ever it does come off."

Dr. Scott's Bicycle Bell

For ladies and gentlemen is a support for the small of the back, it is light in weight, cool, fits comfortably and is a boon to riders, as it relieves the muscles and prevents any strain to the back from long riding. Bicycle riders are divided into two classes, those who sit erect and those who bend over; the latter class sit erect and ride but a few miles, while those who sit erect and bend over, and whose back gradually assumes the position of a half circle, Dr. Scott's Bicycle Bell gives to this rider's back that support that prevents him to sit erect at the end of fifty miles as he does the first mile.

BRYAN MEN TO ST. LOUIS.

Pennsylvania State Silver Convention Held in Philadelphia—Gold Democrats Also Confer.

Philadelphia, Pa., July 17.—The convention of the State Silver Party held here this evening to nominate delegates to the National Convention to convene at St. Louis was an enthusiastic affair, every county in the eastern part of the State being represented. Chairman Deffenbacher said from every county in the State he had received communications asking that Bryan and Sewall be endorsed, and that a vigorous fight be made all along the line.

Resolutions were adopted declaring that the free coinage of silver and gold would be to the best interests of the country. The convention passed a resolution instructing the delegates to the National Convention to vote and work for the endorsement of Bryan and Sewall by the American silver party.

The delegates chosen to go to St. Louis are Congressman Joseph C. Sibley, Henry Stuebner, H. E. Baird, H. R. Hetzel, James A. Wright, Dr. R. E. Deffenbacher, Ellis Stokes, Martin Sperry, A. J. Dietz, Charles S. Keyser, David Newport, W. W. Miller, William Renssion, George P. Strome, William P. Wallace, J. G. Harris, J. R. Seymour and S. S. Lacy.

A conference of gold standard Democrats was held today in the office of John C. Bullitt, a well-known lawyer, for the purpose of protesting against the action of the Chicago Convention. The meeting was held in private and it was presided over by Henry D. Welsh, a director of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

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JUSTICE FIELD AT DEATH'S DOOR.

The Aged Jurist Not Expected to Live Until This Morning.

Only One Other Member Sat on the Supreme Court Bench Longer Than He.

His Services to California Were Very Great in Her Transition Period.

BELONGS TO A GREAT FAMILY.

Brother of Cyrus W., the Rev. Dr. Henry M. and David Dudley Field, the Great Lawyer, and of the Mother of Mr. Justice Brewer.

San Francisco, July 17.—Stephen J. Field, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, is seriously ill and likely to die before morning. He is being brought to San Francisco from his country home this evening.

Sketch of His Life.

Stephen J. Field lacked only a little more than a journey to California. He arrived in San Francisco on December 28, 1840, and in January following was chosen alcalde of Marysville, a position which, in that transitional period of California's history, carried great powers both in civil and criminal matters.

California's Lawmaker.

Mr. Field was a member of California's first State Legislature, having been chosen a member of the Assembly and of the Judiciary Committee. He did for California what his older brother, David Dudley Field, had already done for New York, namely, framed the laws of the new State. He took the Codes of the New York Commission, which were largely his brother's work, as the basis of the Civil and Criminal Practice acts of California, making such changes as were necessary to suit the different conditions of the new State.

In 1857, up to which time he enjoyed an extensive law practice, he was elected Judge of the Supreme Court, of which he became Chief Justice two years later. It was from this position that he ascended the bench of the Supreme Court of the United States in 1863.

Perhaps the most exciting event of Mr. Justice Field's life was his narrow escape from death at the hands of Judge Terry in the railroad depot at Lathrop, Cal. Mr. Justice Field had recently rendered an adverse decision in the celebrated Althea Hill case, by which she was deprived of enjoying the results of Judge Sullivan's decision in the Superior Court of San Francisco, that decision having established her as the wife of Senator Sharon.

His Life Threatened.

Miss Hill, or Mrs. Sharon, as she called herself, was afterward married to Judge Terry, who was the leading counsel in her case. She, with her husband, entered the dining room at the Lathrop, and seeing Justice Field there, pointed him out to Judge Terry. Terry, who was an intensely passionate man, advanced, at the same time drawing his revolver. Before he had time to use the weapon, however, United States Deputy Marshal Nagle, who had been especially detailed as Justice Field's body guard, whipped out his revolver and shot Terry dead in his tracks.

Justice Field maintained his composure to a wonderful extent, but it was also said that the nervous shock that he received had a lasting effect on his health.

TOO POOR FOR ALIMONY.

Belvin's Lawyer Says His Client is in Debt, While His Wife Has Plenty of Money.

Rebecca Wentworth Belvin asked Justice Stover, in Special Term of the Supreme Court yesterday, to grant her alimony and counsel fees in her suit for an absolute divorce from William Wayne Belvin, a prominent promoter of mining and railroad interests.

The Belvins were married in San Francisco six years ago. She was conspicuous in the fashionable circles of the Golden Gate, and he was welcomed by her friends as the scion of an aristocratic Southern family. They came to this city and lived in various well-known hotels and apartment houses until last June, when they parted at the Gerlach. Soon after their separation Mrs. Belvin began the present action. They have no children.

Mrs. Belvin's accusation of infidelity is met by her husband with a counter charge. None of the co-respondents has been named, but it is said that they are persons of high standing in other cities. The case will be tried in October.

Through her counsel Mrs. Belvin told Justice Stover yesterday that her husband was wealthy and was largely interested in several gold mines, among them the Victor, Eagle and Bellape. She also said he owned a great deal of stock in the Great Columbia, South America, and that recently he made \$10,000 on a single deal. She declared they spent not less than \$7,000 a year while they lived together in this city.

Irving M. Dittenhofer, Belvin's attorney, denied that the defendant owned stock in any of those corporations. His only interest in the mines and railroads, said Lawyer Dittenhofer, was that he had been employed on commission to float their stocks. The attorney asserted that his client was financially embarrassed, although he had once been rich, and that there were nine judgments against him for money loaned and other business obligations.

Three bullet perforated the body of Mrs. Belvin, according to Mr. Dittenhofer, is better off than her husband, who was taken to a light street hospital, four city lots in Seattle, Wash., fourteen of which have since been sold for \$700, and she still has ten of them.

Decision was reserved.

Kicked His Wife, Who May Die.

Edward Wille, twenty-eight years old, a wealthy florist, of John street and Central avenue, West Hoboken, was arrested last night charged with brutally kicking his young wife several nights ago he chased her from the house in her night clothes. He was arrested, but subsequently released. Yesterday afternoon Dr. Wille was called to attend Mrs. Wille, whom he found in a critical condition. She said her injury was the result of a kick given her by her husband several months ago. Wille, upon Dr. Wille's complaint, was arrested.

Along the Picturesque Erie

May be found the most beautiful Summerland in the vicinity of New York. The region embraces North and West Hoboken, Orange, Suffern and Deerpark, and is a most delightful region for a summer home in this territory. It is all in search of health, rest and pleasure. Greenleaf is a most beautiful and healthy region, and is a most desirable place for a summer home. The whole region is quickly reached by the splendid train service of the Erie Railroad.

Graduated at Williams.

Mr. Justice Field went to Asia Minor at the age of thirteen with his sister and her husband, the Rev. Josiah Brewer. He remained in Asia Minor two years and a half, and learned to speak and write modern Greek with the ease of a native. On returning to America he entered Williams's College, and was graduated at the age of twenty-one with the highest honors of his class. He entered the law offices of his brother, David Dudley Field, in this city, and afterward practiced as his partner for seven years.

A period of travel in Europe was followed by a journey to California. He arrived in San Francisco on December 28, 1840, and in January following was chosen alcalde of Marysville, a position which, in that transitional period of California's history, carried great powers both in civil and criminal matters.

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MRS. HAWLEY CHAPMAN IN POLICE COURT.

Widow of the Late Actor Cuts Some Lively Capers Down at Coney Island.

Indulges in Seductive Drinks with Two Companions, and They Are All Arrested.

COULDN'T MOUNT HER BICYCLE.

Was the Central Figure in a Sensational Shooting Affair Some Years Ago, and Received Two Bullets from a Nurse.

Mrs. Cora Chapman, the widow of the actor, Hawley Chapman, was arrested early yesterday morning for raising a row on Surf avenue, Coney Island. Her husband was an inmate of the insane asylum at Amityville, L. I., for five years prior to his death.

At the time of her arrest Mrs. Chapman was accompanied by Frank Adams, of No. 204 Bedford avenue, Brooklyn, and Richard Brownman, who occupies a cottage in Cretschmer's walk, West Brighton.

Mrs. Chapman spent Thursday evening at Avoca Villa, Bath Beach. She occupies a cottage with her mother, in West Twenty-fifth street, Coney Island. She went out with an escort, after leaving Avoca Villa. She and her escort had a spat and separated. He rode away on his bicycle, while she went to other resorts in Bath Beach and indulged in more drinks after midnight.

Mrs. Chapman started for Coney Island, but her bicycle proved to be unmanageable, and she walked with it down the Ocean parkway. She fell in with the two other nightingales, and they had a royal time until Surf avenue was reached. A few more drinks were had and then none of the trio was able to mount a wheel. Instead they made the softness of the morning gloom ring with discordant howls.

Patrolman Mulligan, of the West Brighton Precinct, captured the hilarious trio and locked them up. In the morning, when taken before Police Justice Nostrand, in the West Brighton Police Court, the prisoners pleaded guilty to a charge of intoxication, and sentence was suspended.

Mrs. Chapman about five years ago was the central figure in a sensational shooting affair. Hawley Chapman, her husband, who had become demented, was attended by a nurse named Servant. The nurse attempted to enter Mrs. Chapman's sleeping apartment in their home in St. Marks avenue, Brooklyn. When she resisted the intrusion, she was shot. She was removed to the Seamen's Hospital, where she lingered between life and death for many days. Mrs. Chapman recovered and Servant was convicted. He was sentenced by the late Judge Moore to seven years in Sing Sing.

Mrs. Chapman has a large income from her late husband's estate.

WON BACK HIS GIRL.

Josh Lenkert Used a Pistol on an Actor, Whereupon Pretty Susie Lauder Returned to Him.

Al Bound Brook is discussing the manner in which a discarded lover last Wednesday overtook his former sweetheart and his rival on the road about a mile below that place, and at the point of a pistol made the young man jump out of his buggy and run for his life, leaving the girl to settle it with the man she had discarded.

Pretty Susie Lauder is her father's housekeeper on his farm, between New Brunswick and Bound Brook. Joshua Lenkert, who is a hired man on the farm, was regarded as Susie's sweetheart until last Spring. Then an actor, Janeway Jennings, came to the Lauder farm to board.

Jennings won Susie's fancy and Wednesday night invited her over to Bound Brook. She consented. Josh was talking the words, but when he saw the couple drive away he rushed to the stable, led out the gray horse and jumped on his last. Noting secretly in his hip pocket was his big bowie pistol.

Half an hour later Joshua caught sight of the buggy as it passed the Lanier Bridge. Spurring the horse on, he was able to look through the little windows in the hood. What he saw infuriated him. Susie was sitting in Jennings's shoulder, and he was whispering soft nothings in her ear.

Drawing his horse pistol, Josh rode ahead of the buggy. "Die, you wretch!" he shouted, leveling the pistol at Jennings's head, and pulling the trigger.

Three bullets perforated the buggy cover, but did not take effect, and Jennings jumped from the vehicle and ran down the road toward New Brunswick. He hasn't been seen since.

Josh's anger died away in an instant. Susie watched him, and the weapon bay in his pocket admirably. "I have a coward," she said softly. "Josh, will you forgive me?"

"Well, I reckon," said Josh.

Monniss Returns to Venezuela.

General Monniss was the only remaining Venezuelan on the Red D steamship Venezuela when she left New York last Wednesday. It was not known until yesterday that the General had been granted a leave of absence by the Government, and that he would be in the city until the celebration in honor of the General Francisco Miranda, to take place at Caracas some time during the present month.

"Sydney" proved to be Bowers. Detective Reap was on hand at the appointed hour to arrest Bowers. He was taken to the station, where he was held in the middle and had a high forehead. "Sydney" was a light strapping fellow, which was perched down well over his face. Without ceremony Reap brushed the hat from the young man's head. There were the parted hairs and high forehead. He was straightway placed under arrest.

44 Pages

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